

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USNATO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0942

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR CH UR
SUBJ: PRC POSITION TOWARD TROOP WITHDRAWAL ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER

REF: MOSCOW 6662

1. THE PRC POSITION SINCE 1969 HAS BEEN THAT THE SOVIET UNION
MUST FIRST WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM THE DISPUTED AREAS ALONG THE
ENTIRE SINO-SOVIET BORDER BEFORE A COMPREHENSIVE BORDER
SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED. THE FORMULATION HAS IMPLICITLY
ALSO INCLUDED THE PULLBACK OF SOVIET TROOPS ALONG THE
SINO-MONGOLIAN BORDER.

2. PREMIER HUA KUO-FENB IN HIS FEBRUARY 26, 1978 WORK REPORT
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TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ALSO DEMANDED THAT
THE SOVIET UNION WITHDRAW ITS ARMED FORCES FROM THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MONGOLIA. THIS FORMULA WAS
REPEATED IN THE MARCH 9 PRC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS NOTE TO THE SOVIET UNION ON THE NORMALIZATION
OF SINO-SOVIET STATE RELATIONS. AS FAR AS WE ARE
AWARE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL

FROM MONGOLIA HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY AND PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS A PRECONDITION FOR A BORDER SETTLEMENT. IN HIS 1973 ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, FORMER PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA CHIDED THE SOVIET UNION FOR NOT WITHDRAWING ITS FORCES FROM MONGOLIA AS AN INDICATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT SERIOUS ABOUT RELAXING WORLD TENSION. HOWEVER, CHIAO DID NOT LINK THIS WITH A BORDER SETTLEMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE PRC HAS APPARENTLY CLARIFIED ITS POSITION ON THE PRC BORDER SITUATION, PUBLICLY ADDING THE DEMAND FOR A COMPLETE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM MONGOLIA. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE VERY WELL BEEN THE PRIVATE POSITION SINCE 1969 AND THE PRC HAS NOW BEEN PRODDED INTO "CLARIFYING" ITS POSITION IN RESPONSES TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA ATTACKS. THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE EXPLOITING THIS CLARIFICATION FOR MAXIMUM PROPAGANDA EFFECT.
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Message Attributes

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